



Eastern Coal Regional Roundtable: Hope and Hard Work



Acid mine drainage seeps into streams, where the iron-rich contaminants form a solid known as "Yellow Boy" which coats the streambed.



Volunteers are ready to monitor water quality on the Cheat River.



Kick-off Roundtable of ECRR constituents near Mullens, WV to develop training curriculum.

Photo courtesy Bruce Golden, Western Pennsylvania Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation.

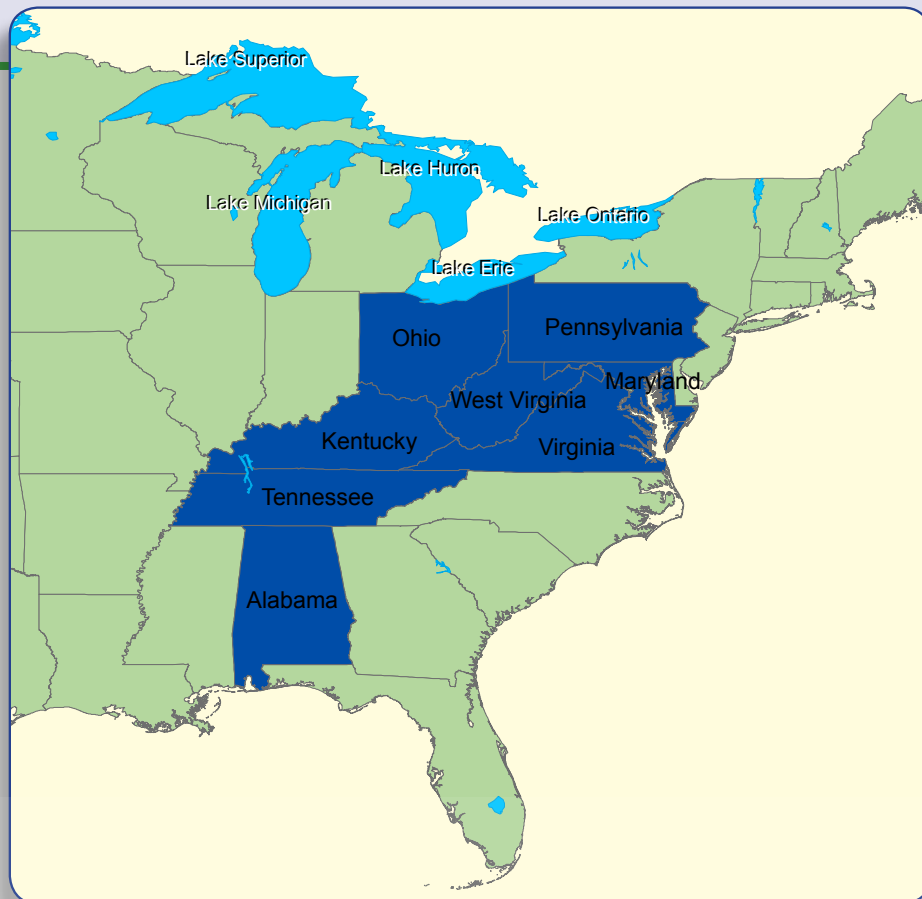
Targeted Watersheds Capacity Building Grant

Hope and Hard Work is a collaboration of private and public partners, led by the non-profit Eastern Coal Regional Roundtable (ECRR). Founded in 2001, the Eastern Coal Regional Roundtable serves mine-scarred Appalachian watersheds through training, capacity building and providing a collective voice for underserved communities seeking to restore the well-being of their citizens and environment.

Watershed Capacity Building Efforts

Acid mine drainage (AMD) is Appalachia's primary water quality problem. AMD is a highly acidic liquid flowing from abandoned coal mines. This iron-laden liquid often turns the streams orange, coats streambeds and destroys aquatic habitat. AMD negatively affects the recreational and potable water potential of the streams. Further degrading water quality, large populations in Appalachia still do not have sewage treatment systems, so untreated wastewater is discharged through "straight pipes" directly into streams.

The Hope and Hard Work project will provide training and support for at least 50 grassroots watershed groups in Appalachian Coal Country. Two three-day trainings will take place, one in northern Appalachia and one in southern Appalachia. Trainings and practicum will be offered to watershed stewards in the states of Ohio, West Virginia, Virginia, Tennessee, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Kentucky and Alabama. Each training will be divided into two tracks—water monitoring and fiscal sustainability. Participants will each develop and carry out a practicum to put their new skills and knowledge into prac-



Watershed stewards from these states will participate in Eastern Coal Regional Roundtable trainings.

tice. Practicums may include, for example, developing water monitoring teams, writing watershed plans, writing fundraising plans, applying for grants or determining Board of Director roles. Six to ten participants from the first year will be selected to help guide participants in the second year of training. Each participating organization will receive a membership to River Network, a national watershed support organization, to further their access to trainings and resources.

Results from the practicum and lessons learned by the participating groups will be compiled into a State of the Region report. A Coal Country Watersheds Roundtable Summit will follow the final training session and allow participating groups, as well as local land use and policy decision makers and stakeholders, to share information and provide further discussion.

For More Information:

www.easterncoal.org

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EPA's Targeted Watersheds Grant program is a competitive grant program designed to encourage collaborative, community-driven approaches to meet clean water goals.

**For more information about the selected watersheds, please visit:
<http://www.epa.gov/twg>**

840-F-08-001R